

Application No. 09/594,654

Filed: June 15, 2000

TC Art Unit: 2132

Confirmation No.: 9274

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 28 are pending and stand rejected.

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The inclusion of commas as per the amendment made above is deemed to address the basis for rejection.

Claims 1 - 28 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious in view of Edlund et al. (6,085,227; "Edlund") in view of Buhle et al. (6,286,104; "Buhle").

The Examiner has acknowledged the lack of teaching of secure access control in Edlund. Buhle has been relied upon by the Examiner for a teaching of secure communications between a client, a middle-tier server, and a data server. However, Buhle requires that parallel data paths be established for each middle-tier server - data server communications session. One of these paths is an application-application session in which the middle-tier server is authenticated to the data server. The other is a client-application session in which the middle-tier server acts in the stead of the client. See generally the description of Fig. 2 in Buhle at col. 5.

In contrast, the presently claimed systems and methods require the transfer of a separate authenticating data set from the agent application operative in association with the target

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system to the intermediary where it is locally stored in a secure data facility. A manager (referred to as a "client" in Buhle) is thus required to establish a secure communications session with the intermediary, followed by provision of authentication data which is compared by the intermediary to the agent-provided authenticating data set located in the secure data facility. This obviates the need for a second communications pathway as found between the middle-tier server of Buhle and the data server. Efficient use of system resources and an increase in system simplicity results.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and allow the claims. If a telephone conference would be of use in forwarding the present application towards allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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